Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, US

SUBJ: RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS: JOINT US-UK PRESENTATION TO

SAG

REF: (A) STATE 206798, (B) STATE 206797, (C) STATE 206698

- 1. IN A MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PRINCE SAUD TODAY
 AUGUST 31 IN TAIF, AMBASSADOR AND BRITISH CHARGE OLIVER
 MILES MADE A JOINT PRESENTATION ON THE RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT
 PROPOSALS AND THE ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND DRAWING ON REFTELS.
 PAPERS WERE LEFT INCLUDING AN AIDE-MEMOIRE ON THE PROPOSED
 DEVELOPMENT FUND
- 2. PRINCE SAUD INQUIRED ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF BRITISH FOREIGN MINISTER OWEN'S AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S TALKS WITH THE VARIOUS POLITICAL LEADERS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. CHARGE MILES REPLIED THAT HIS EMBASSY HAD A REPORT THAT THE PRINCIPLE OBSTACLE WAS THE SMITH GOVERNMENT'S REFUSAL TO HAND OVER THE SECURITY FORCES TO AN AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. THEN SAUD ASKED WHETHER THE USG AND HMG ANTICIPATED THAT SMITH WOULD REJECT THE JOINT PROPOSALS. MILES REPLIED THAT HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS TO RESPOND TO THAT QUESTION.

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3. ON THE CREATION OF A ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND, SAUD SAID THERE WOULD BE "NO PROBLEM" OF SAUDI PARTICIPATION IN SUCH A FUND ONCE A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT WAS REACHED. SAUD SAID THAT THERE WERE THREE AGENCIES ALREADY IN EXISTENCE-THE SAUDI DEVELOPMENT FUND, THE AFRO-ARAB BANK IN SUDAN, AND THE AFRICAN BANK IN ABIDJAN--THAT WOULD BE PREPARED TO

JOIN IN SUCH AN EFFORT. MILES REITERATED THAT THE FUND'S CREATION WAS CONTINGENT ON A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

4. SAUD SAID THAT HE DEEPLY APPRECIATED THE BRIEFING IN ADVANCE OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE WHITE PAPER AND THAT HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE PROPOSALS WOULD MEET WITH SUCCESS BECAUSE IF THE CONFLICT WAS NOT RESOLVED SOON THE CONSEQUENCES WERE DIFFICULT TO CONTEMPLATE.

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